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(b) The Committee decided that it would be unwise on administrative grounds to combine the Medical and the Public Health departments under the headship of the Surgeon-General and, therefore, recommended that the present system should be maintained. The Government have accepted the recommendation of the Committee. The retrenchment suggested in the Industries department will be considered in due course.

Retrenchment in the Forest Department.

* 398 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the question of effecting retrenchment in the Forest Department and if so, on what lines;

(b) whether any recommendations as to the retrenchment in the Forest Department were placed before the Retrenchment Committee and if so, what they were; and

(c) what was the decision arrived at by the Retrenchment Committee?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The expenditure of the Forest Department has not yet been examined in detail by the Retrenchment Committee. The only point that they have considered was the possibility of temporarily closing down the Forest College; and this they decided would be impracticable, as an immediate measure of economy. The Chief Conservator has, however, made comprehensive proposals for reduction of expenditure during the current year and surrenders of just under Rs. 3 lakhs have either been made or ordered by Government, chiefly by restricting the programme of timber extraction and cutting down capital expenditure on communications and buildings to the lowest possible figure. Further avenues of retrenchment will be explored by the Retrenchment Committee in due course.

Stoppage of recruitment to permanent service pending the question of the pay of future incumbents.

* 399 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the question of stopping all future appointments on a permanent basis pending the examination of the question of future pay and strength of public service;

(b) whether any recommendations have been made by the Retrenchment Officer or the Finance Committee in this behalf;

(c) if so, whether any orders have been issued by Government to heads of departments in this direction; and

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(d) whether a copy of the orders will be placed on the table of the House?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) With the concurrence of the Retrenchment Committee orders were issued in G.O. No. 810, Public, dated 5th August 1931.

(d) The Government Order has already been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*—See page 1023, Part I, dated 11th August 1931.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know, Sir, whether the consideration of the future pay has been concluded or is it still under consideration?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"The matter is still under consideration."

Abolition of certain permanent and temporary appointments.

* 400 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government or the Retrenchment Committee have considered the question of abolishing all additional, permanent and temporary appointments sanctioned during the last three years and carrying a salary of Rs. 200 and above, as a measure of retrenchment; and

(b) what is the total number of such appointments and what is the budget allotment therefor?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Government have no information and do not consider that the labour involved in collecting it would be commensurate with the value of the results.

Agency Tracts

Proposal to reserve the Agency tracts as a colony for the exclusive benefit of the Europeans.

* 401 Q.—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are contemplating a scheme to set apart the Agency tracts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari districts as a colony for the exclusive use of the Europeans; and

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table all the papers connected with this affair?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no such scheme under their consideration.